

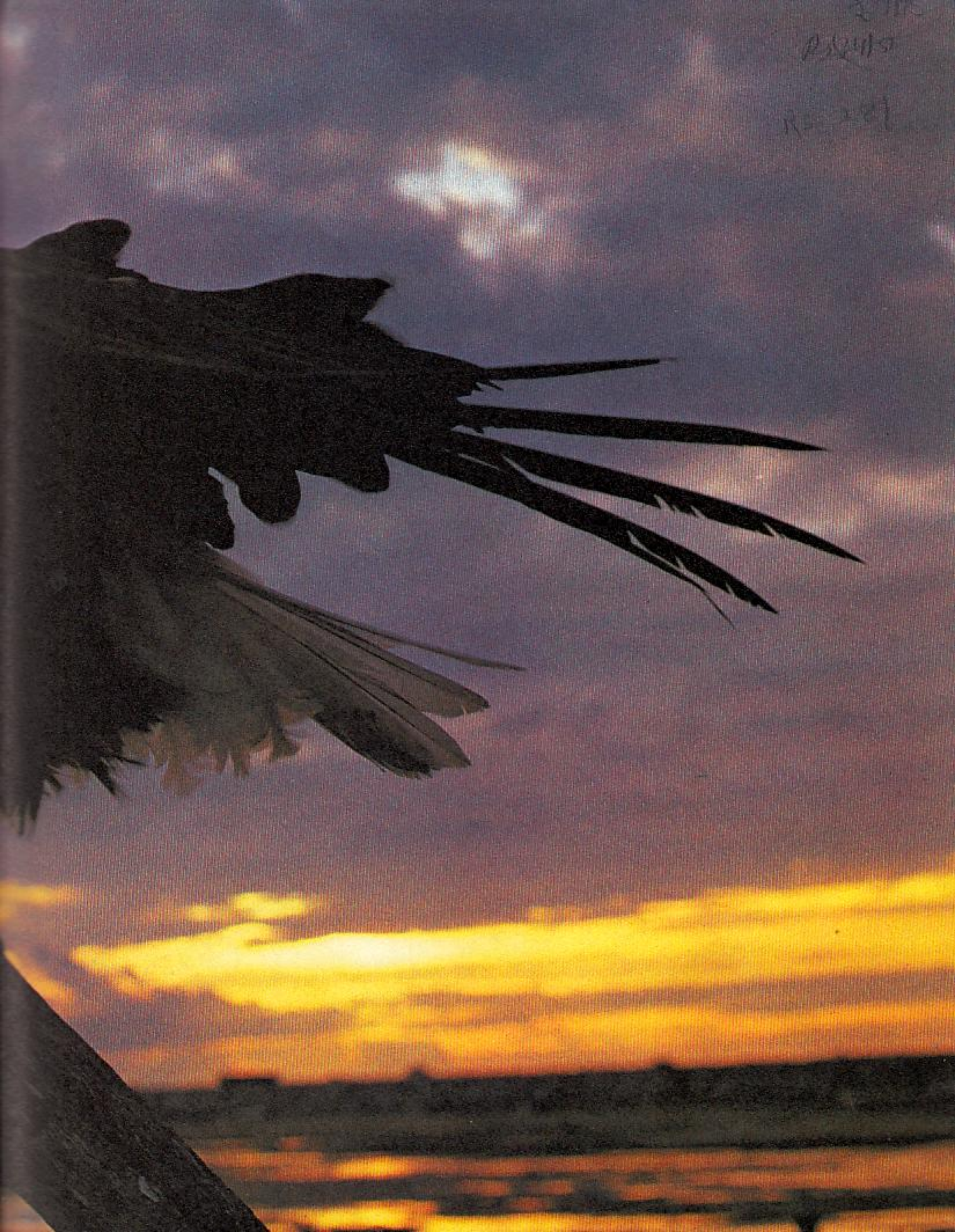
Animals in Danger

Trying To Save Our Wildlife

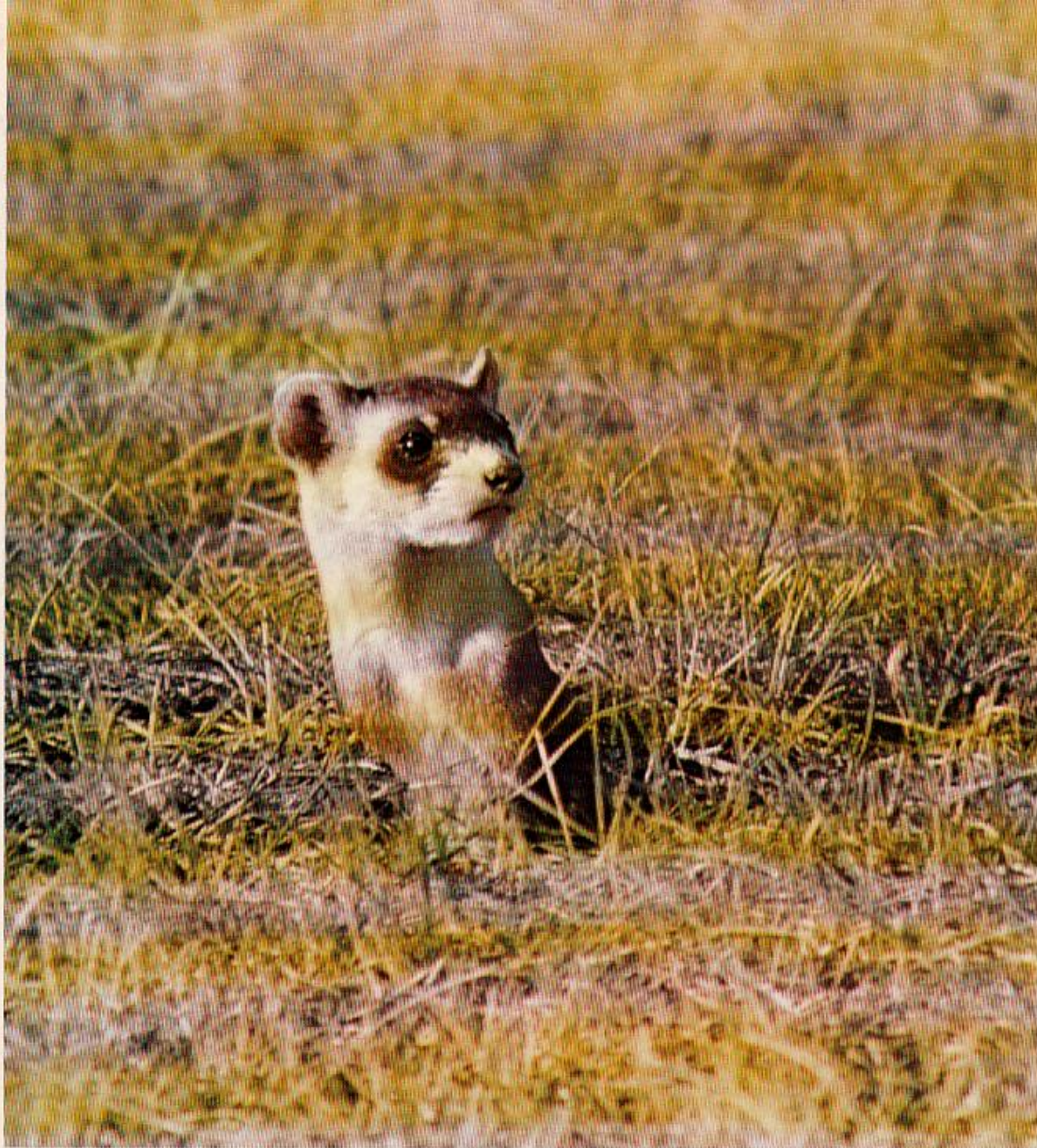


 BOOKS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY





BI. 666



A black-footed ferret looks out of its underground home. There are very few of these animals left in the world.

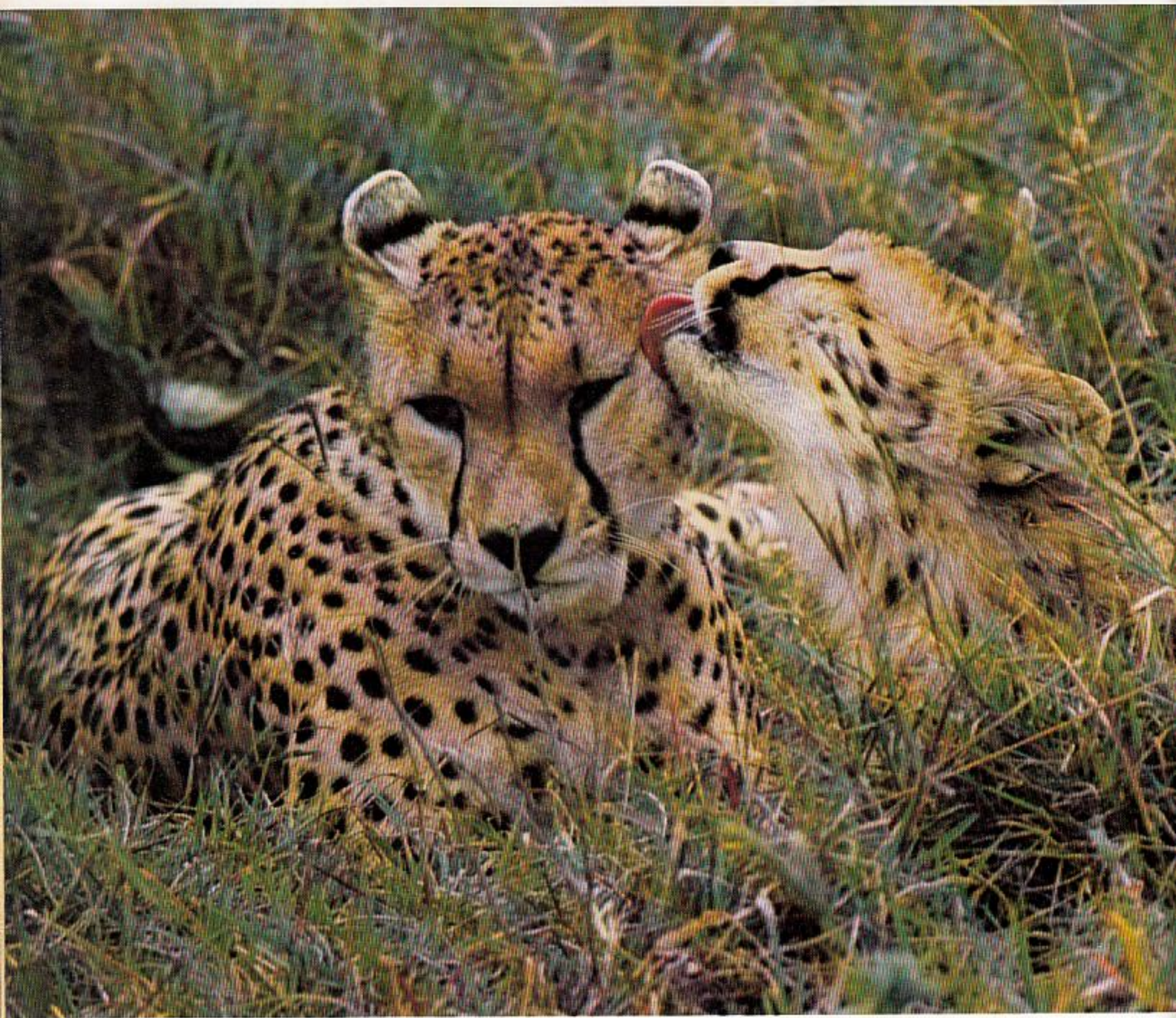
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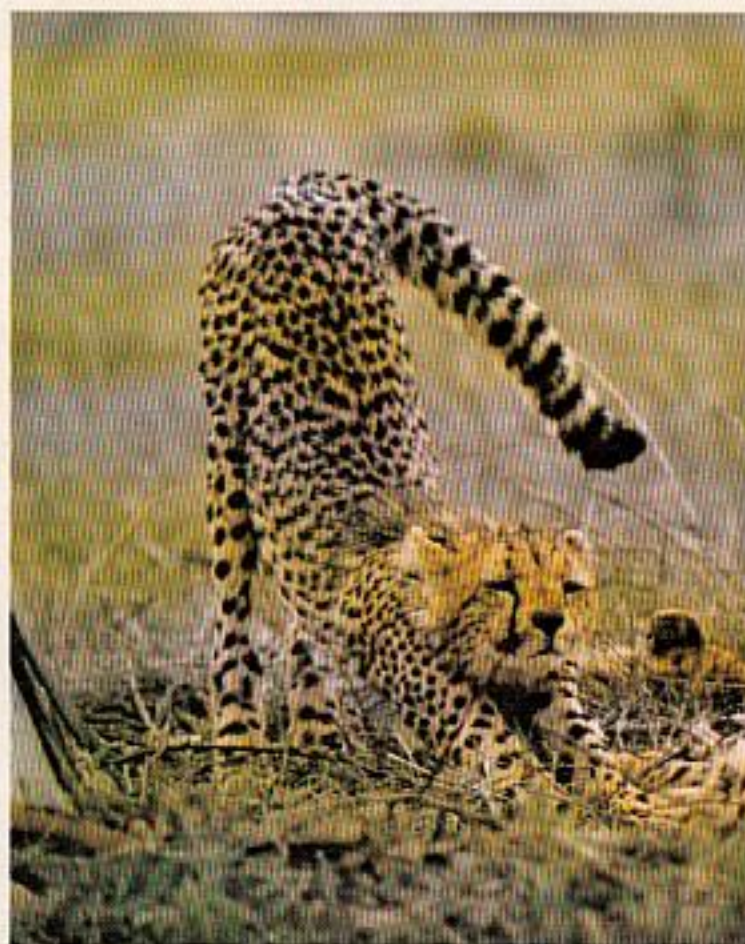


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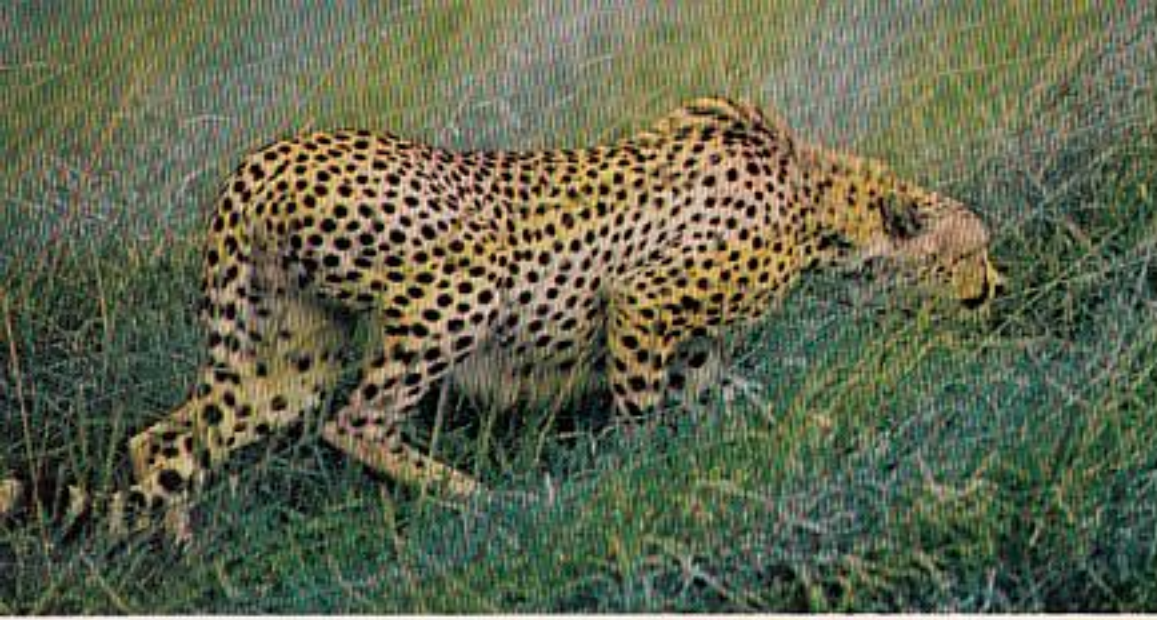


In faraway Africa, a cheetah cub licks its mother's face.
Another little cheetah stretches after a nap.
Now it is ready to play. The mother swats the cub
with her strong front paw. It is a rough game, isn't it?
But it helps the cub grow strong and learn how to hunt.

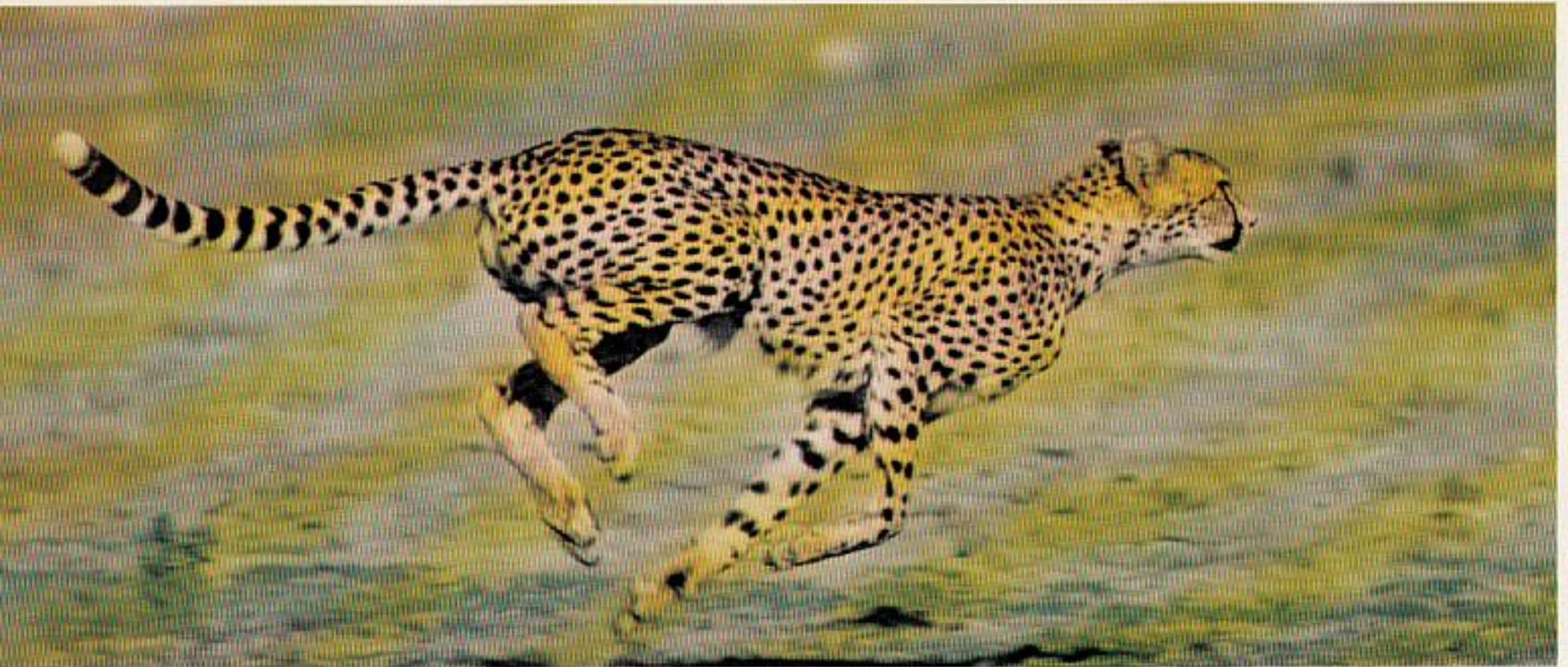


Cheetahs are in danger because people have killed so many of them for their skins. People are also using the land the cheetahs need to hunt for their food.

Soon there may not be any wild cheetahs left. Other animals are also in danger of disappearing from the earth forever.



A cheetah hunts alone.
It creeps forward slowly
and tries to sneak up close
without being seen.



Then it begins to run. Suddenly, it dashes forward and runs faster than any other animal in the world. This young cheetah catches an animal to eat. Some animals hunt. Others are hunted. That is the way of the wild.



A woman wears a coat made of cheetah skins. People have killed many cheetahs to make coats like this one. Laws to protect cheetahs may help save these animals.

The wolf hunts for its food, too. Three gray wolves meet on a snowy hill. They wag their tails and lick each other on the face. Wolves live and hunt together in groups called packs. How many wolves do you see in this large pack? The leader lopes through the snow on a long hunt for food.

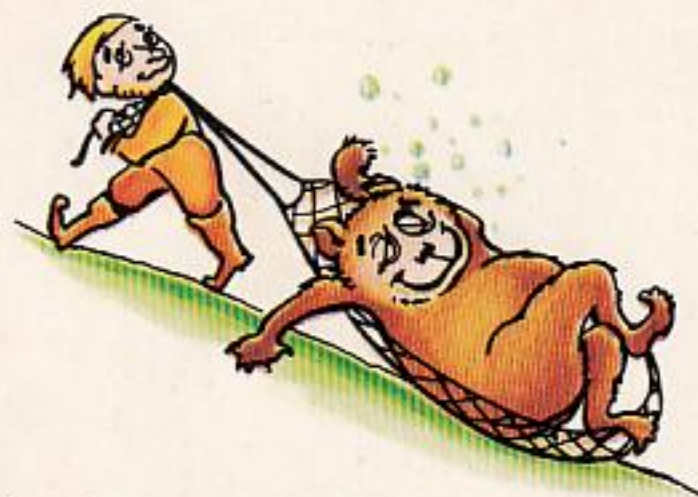
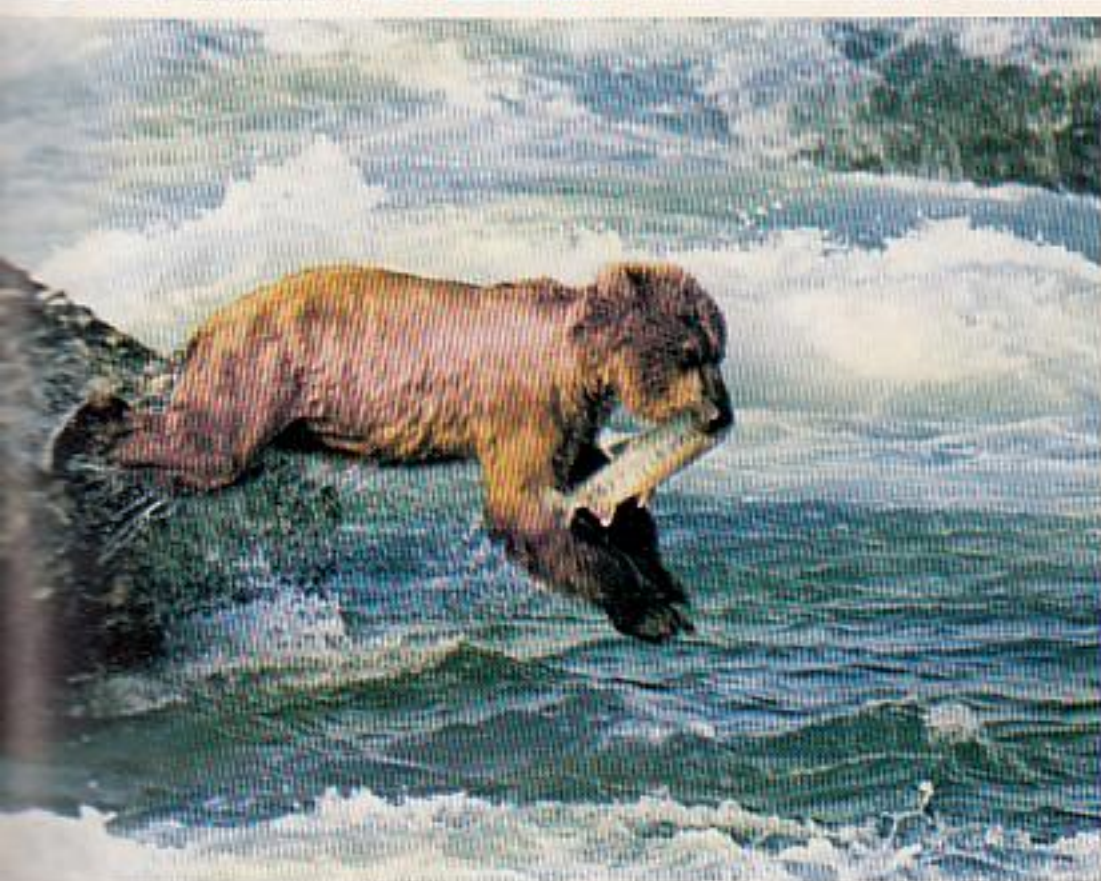


A farmer tries to shoot a wolf. He is afraid the wolf will kill his farm animals. People have killed so many wolves that they have disappeared from many places. Now laws protect some of the wolves that remain.





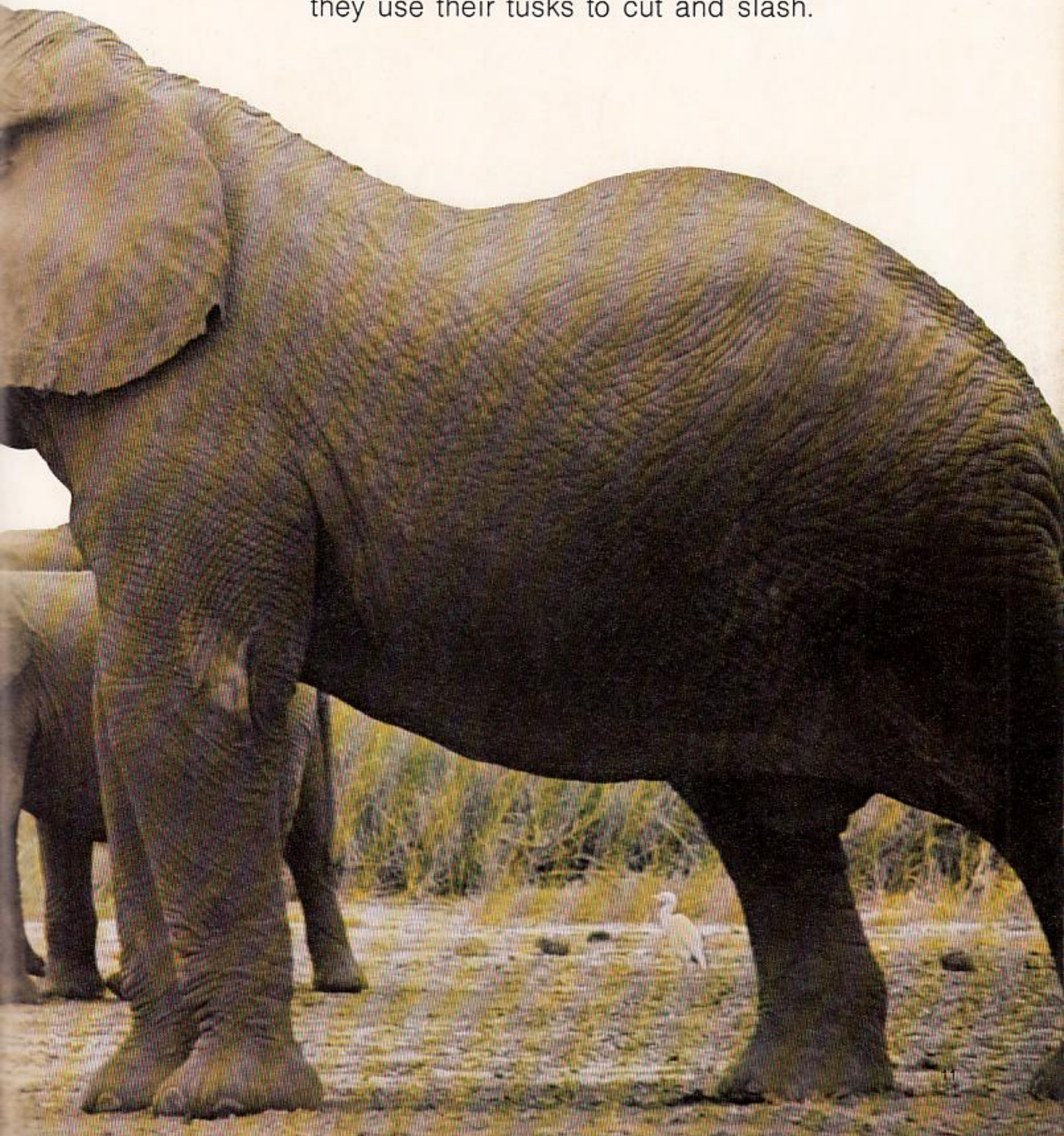
A wet baby bear huddles next to its mother.
Can you see why two older bear cubs are following their mother?
She has caught a fish for them to eat.
A young bear with a fish of its own plops into the river.



A park ranger moves
a bear to a place away from people.
Wild animals need to live
in a place of their own.



Two elephants push each other with their trunks.
They are trying to show how strong they are.
In contests like this, elephants almost never stab
each other with their tusks.
But when elephants fight,
they use their tusks to cut and slash.



Two hungry elephants snap twigs and rip leaves from trees. Elephants need a lot of food. Each day they eat leaves from many, many trees.

These mothers and calves go to a water hole to drink and bathe. Elephants suck water up into their trunks and give themselves showers.

A trunk can also scratch an itch or rub an eye. It can lift a log or smell danger in the wind.



In Africa, a farmer grows food on land where elephants once lived. Soon there may not be enough wild land for elephants to find food for themselves.

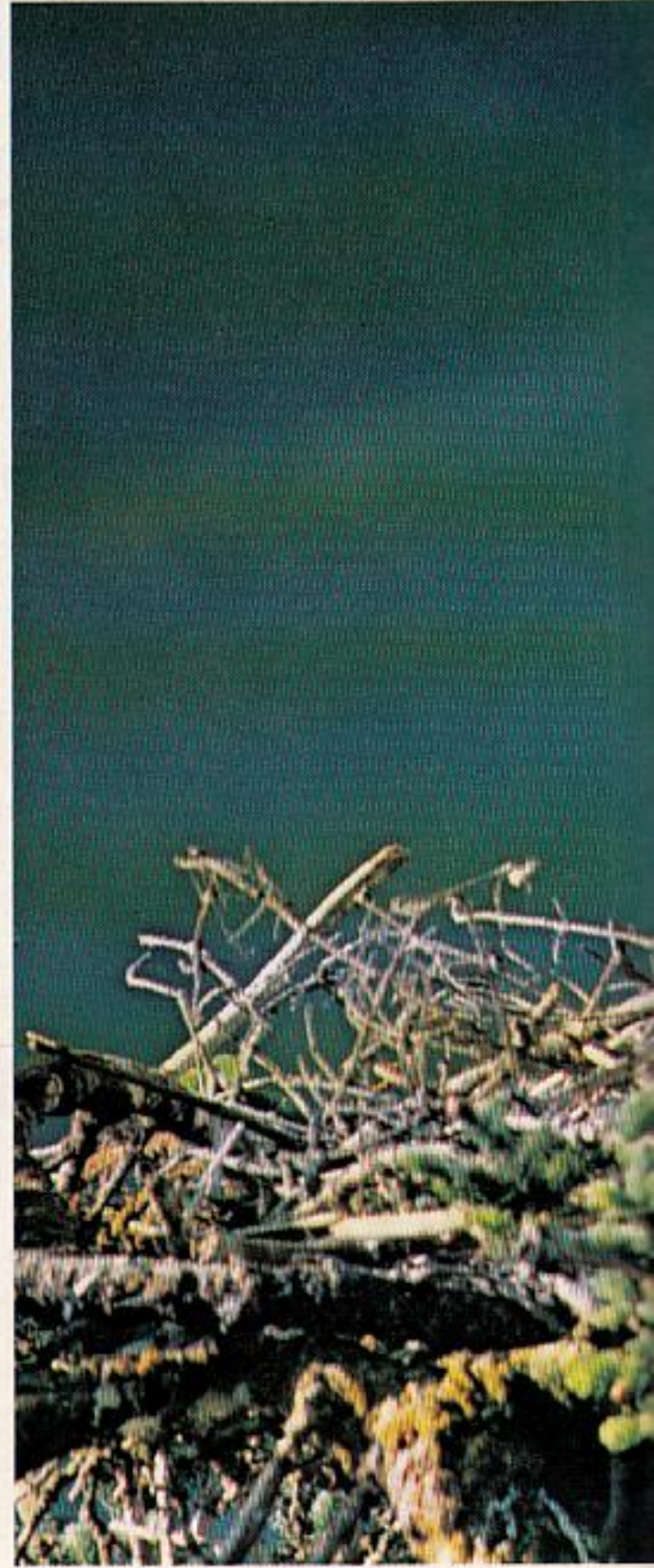




Zoom! A pelican dives into the water to catch a fish.
Do you see the fish the bird has caught?
It is in the pelican's pouch.
Soon the bird flies back to its nest.
There, a hungry young pelican pokes its head
deep inside the mother's pouch to get its food.



A man kills an insect with a poison spray.
If the spray goes into the water,
it may poison many of the fishes there.
When pelicans eat fish, they may be poisoned, too.
Now there are laws against using some insect poisons.



A bald eagle sits on a branch.
It is holding a fish in its sharp claws.
High above the water in a tall tree, young eaglets wait in a nest.
Their parents will bring them food
until they are old enough to leave the nest.
Then the little eagles can begin to feed themselves.

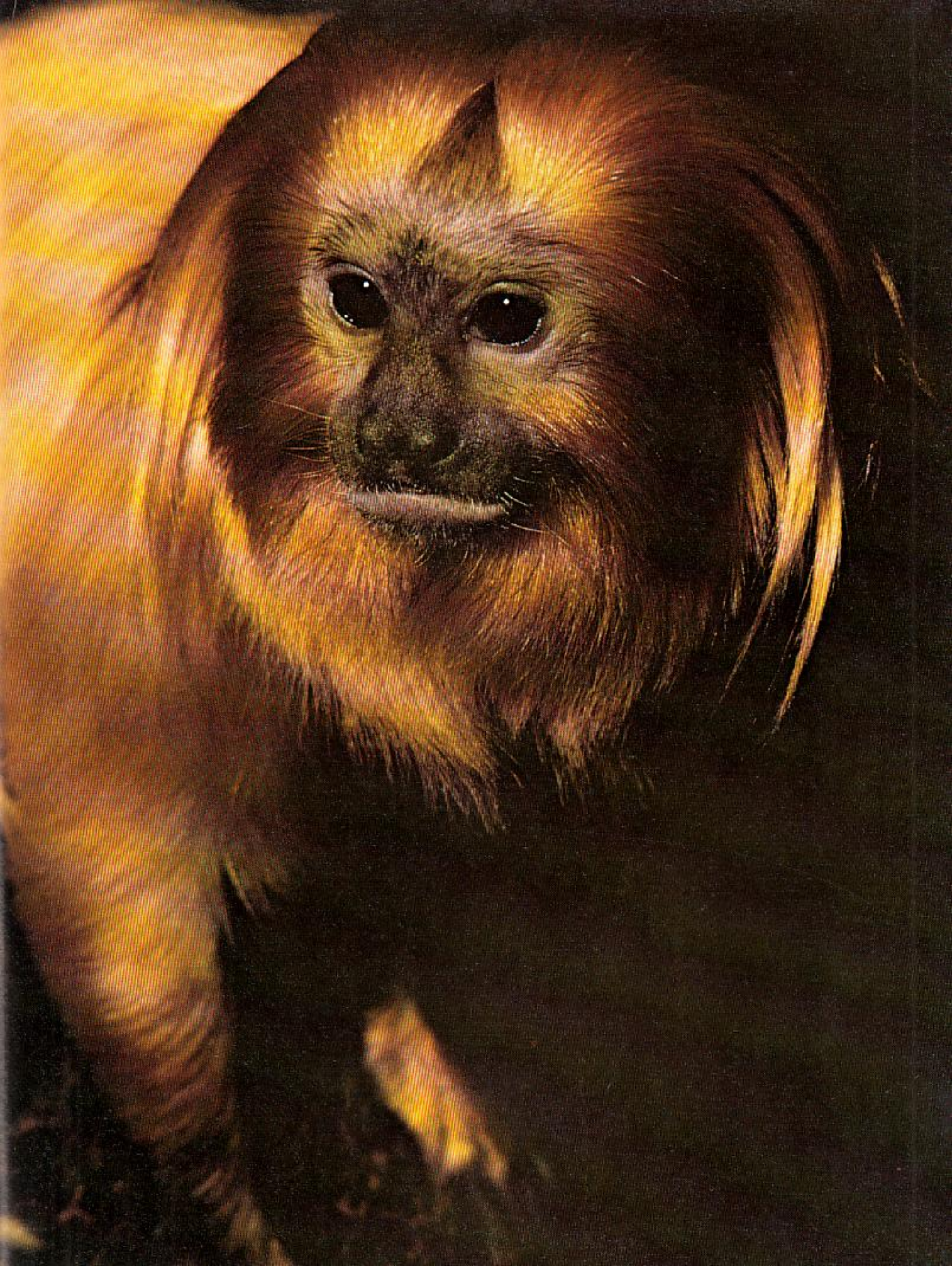


A man cuts down a tree to make room for houses. Eagles have lost another tree where they could build nests. In places called refuges, people save trees for eagles.

The golden lion marmoset is a very small monkey.
This family of four marmosets lives in a zoo.
The father leans over to sniff one of his twin babies.
At the same time, the mother stretches out to rest.
Can you see the other baby? It is climbing on its mother's back.



A baby marmoset born in a zoo drinks from a bottle.
Scientists are raising marmosets and other rare animals in zoos.



A giant gorilla
munches
a leafy vine.
This great ape
lives in a
mountain forest
in Africa.
Sometimes gorillas
stand up tall
and thump
on their chests.
They beat
the ground
and hoot and growl.
But gorillas are
not fierce. They are
gentle and shy.





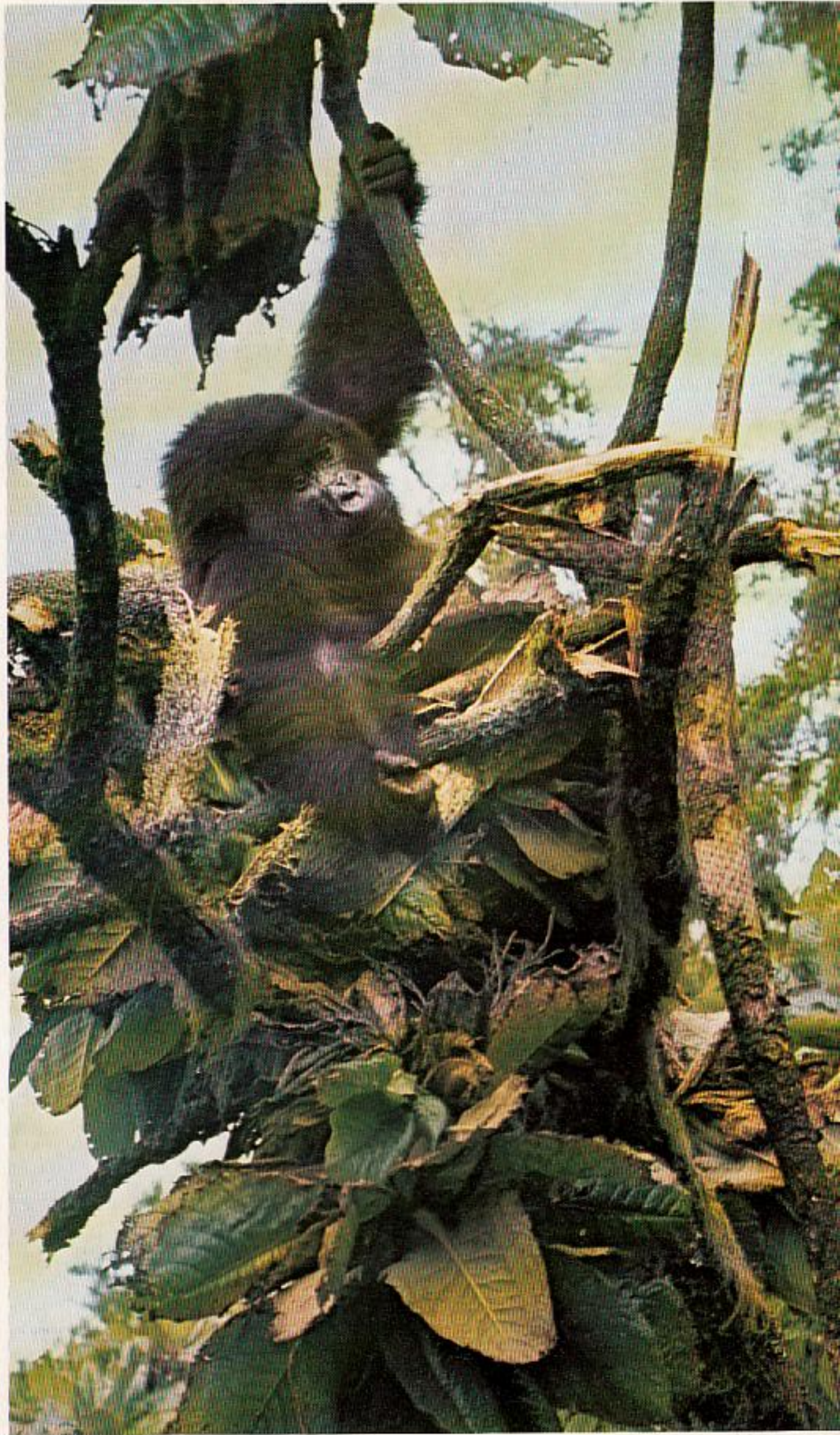


This gorilla baby
cuddles close
to its mother.
Another young ape
bends branches
to make a nest
for a nap.

Young gorillas
like to play.
They slide and
tumble and chase
and tickle
each other.



A scientist watches a gorilla.
Learning how gorillas live
may help us
protect these animals.





A herd of shaggy bison stampedes across the grassland.

They sound like the rumble of a thunderstorm.

Two male bison are charging each other.

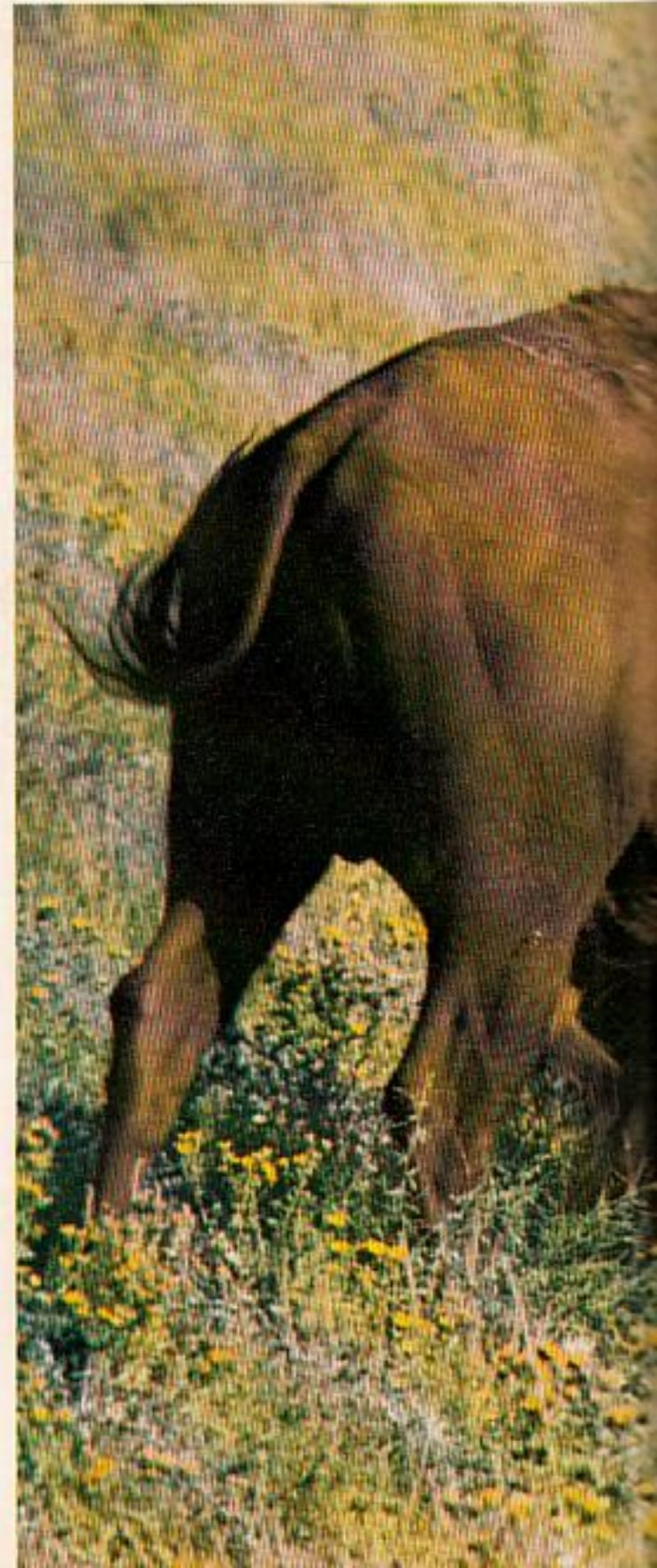
They ram heads and bang horns.

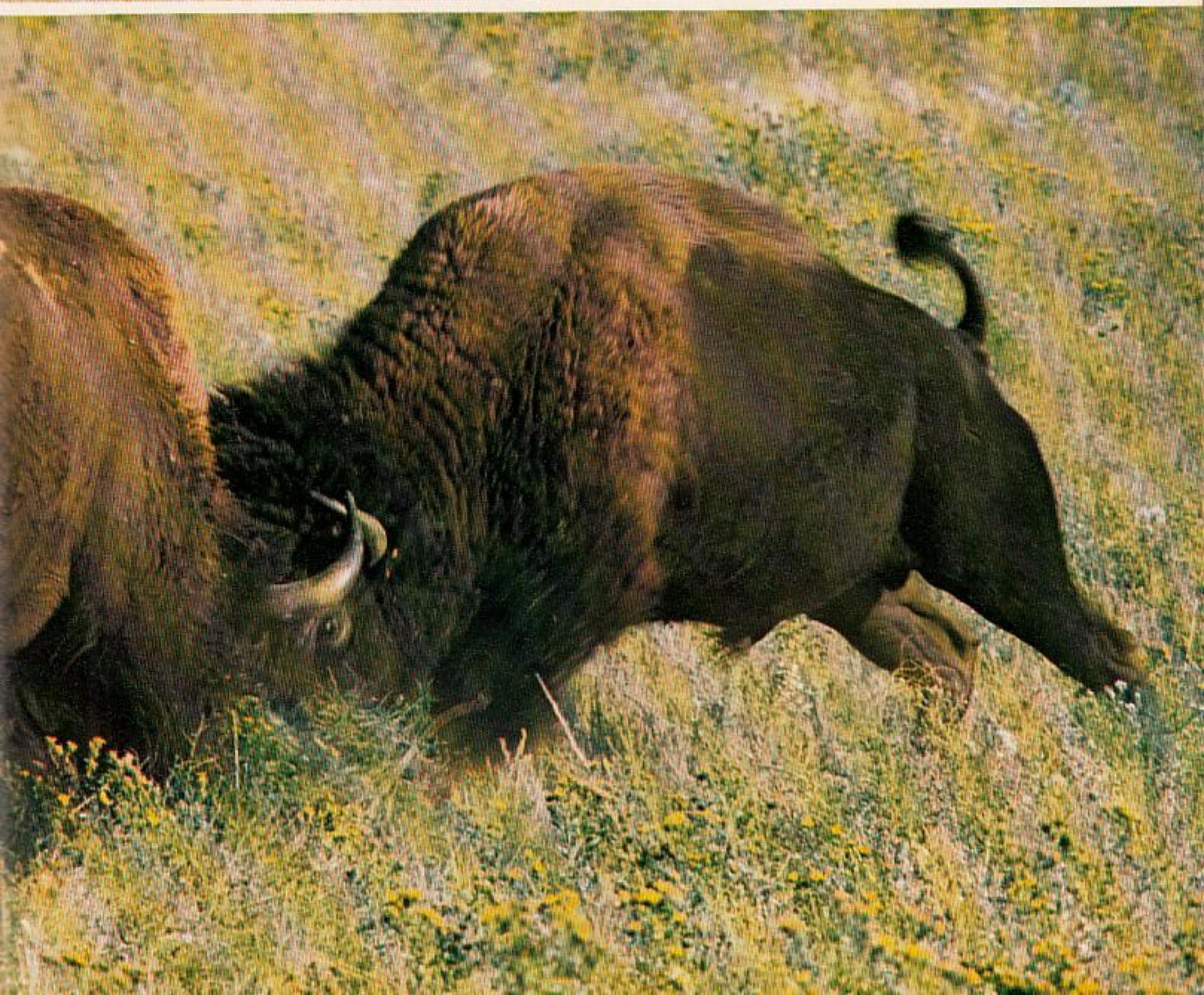
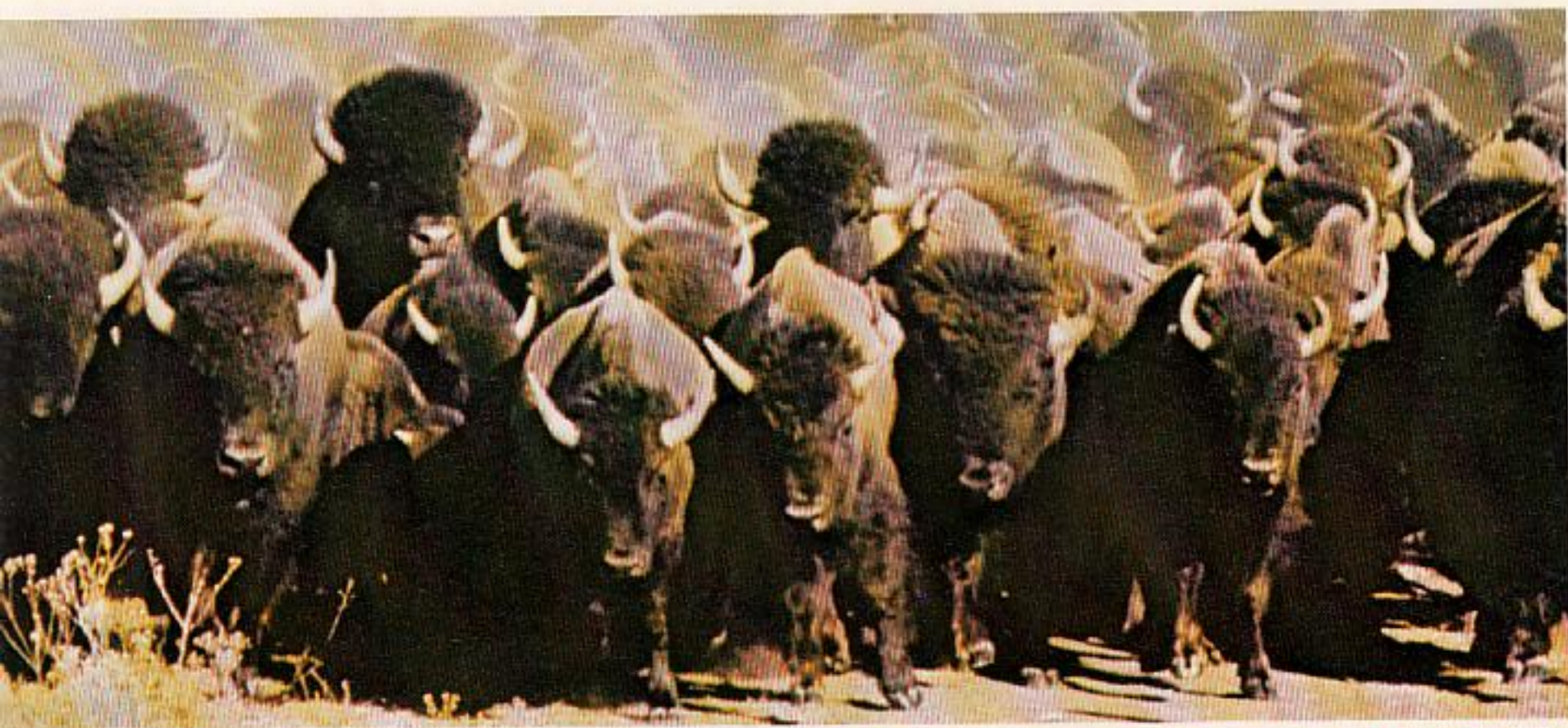
They are in a contest to find out which one is stronger.

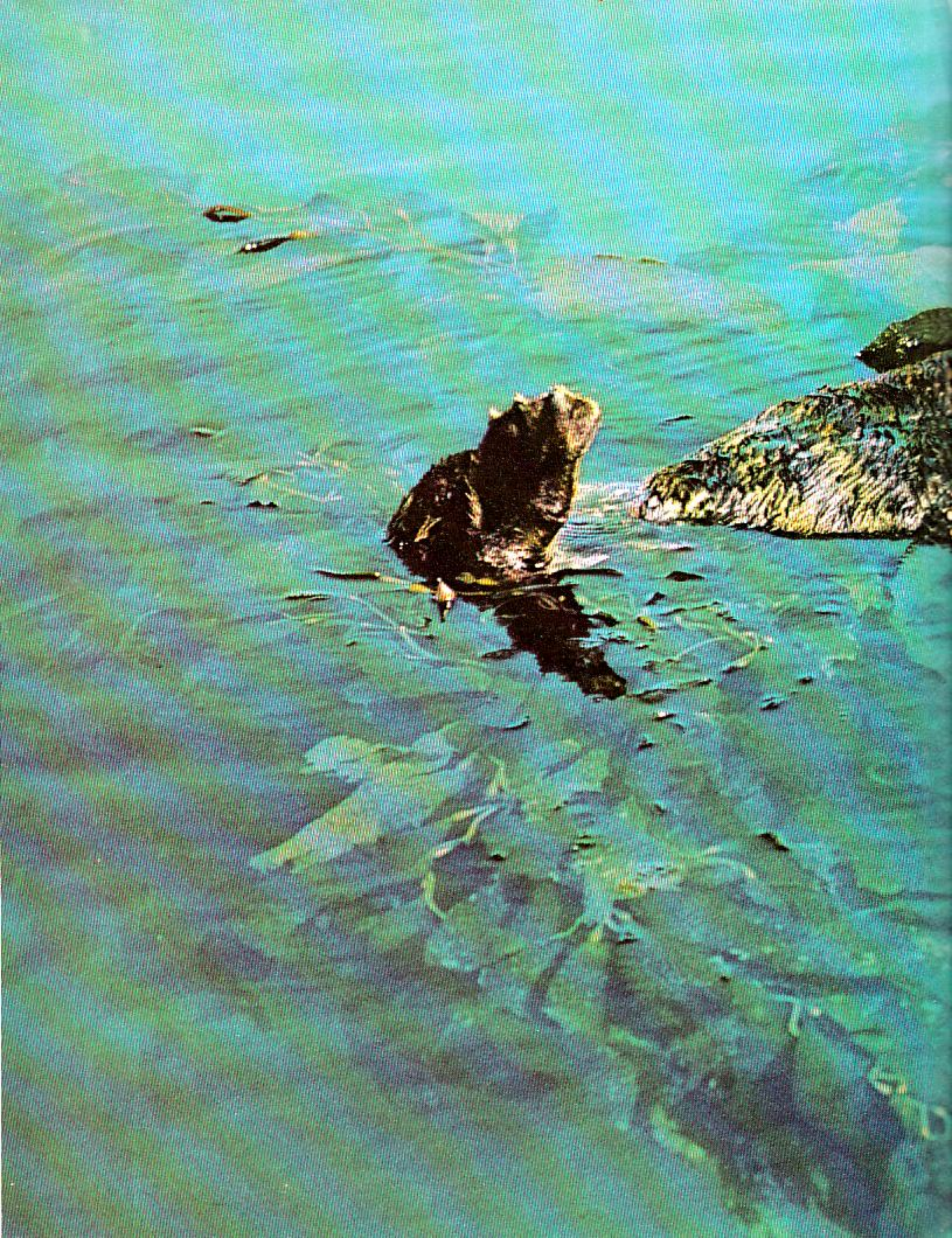
They fight until one gives up. The loser will turn away and begin to graze.

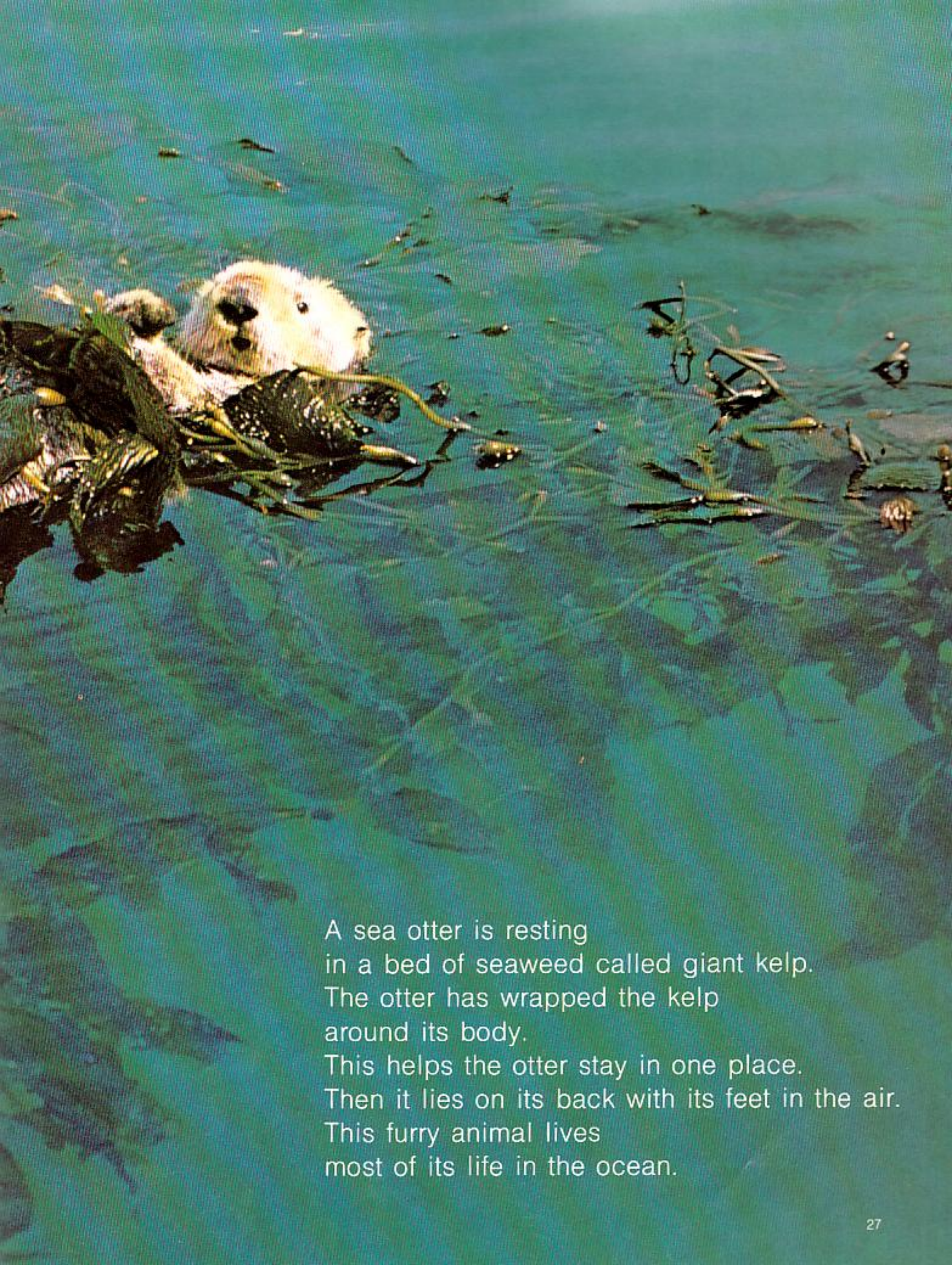


Bison, also called buffalo, now live in protected places. Once hunters killed so many of these animals that there were only a few left.





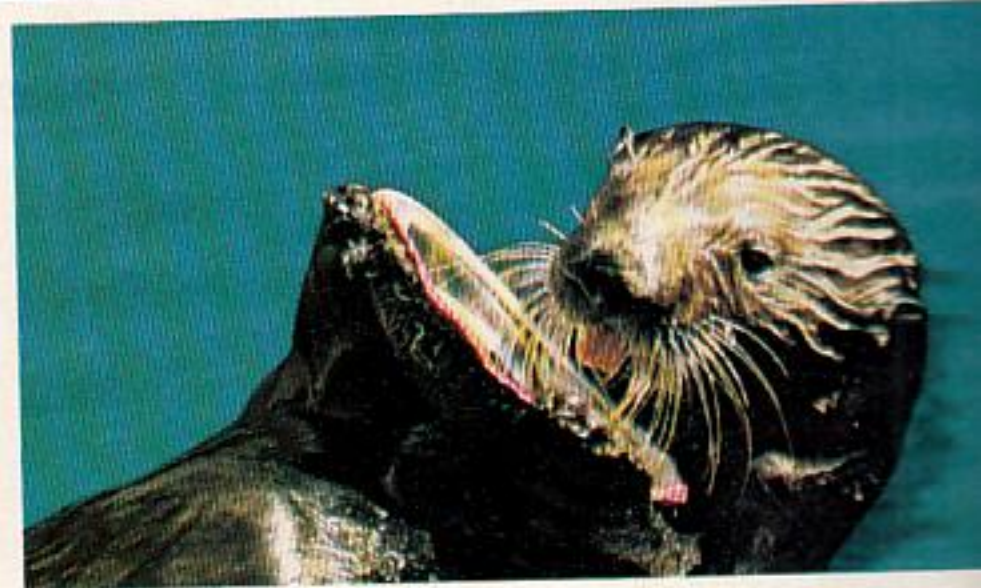
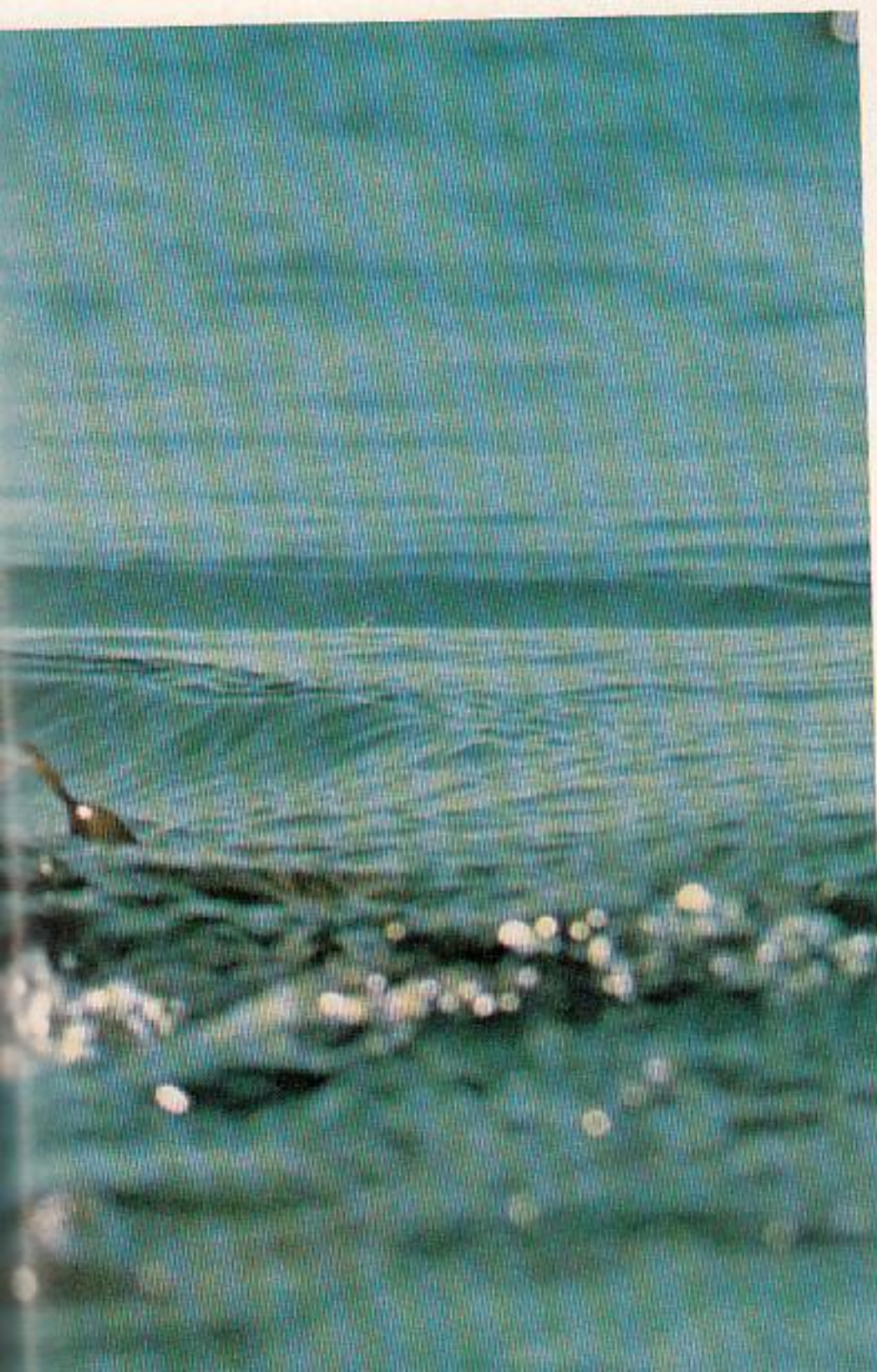




A sea otter is resting
in a bed of seaweed called giant kelp.
The otter has wrapped the kelp
around its body.
This helps the otter stay in one place.
Then it lies on its back with its feet in the air.
This furry animal lives
most of its life in the ocean.

Sea otters dive deep underwater for their food.
Near the bottom, one otter has found
an animal called a sea cucumber.
The otter carries its food up to the surface before eating it.
Another otter holds a shellfish and scoops out the soft insides.
After it eats, the otter rolls over in the water
to wash away the food that sticks to its fur.





Men made laws against killing sea otters.
People stopped hunting them for their fur.
Now there are more otters in the sea.

Two humpback whales
swim slowly along.
They sing strange
songs underwater.
No one really knows
why humpbacks sing.
We need to know more
about whales
and other animals.
We also need to learn
how to share
the world
with whales and
all other living things.



People who care about whales are
trying to make other people care, too.
If people care enough,
they may save the whales
and many other animals in danger.



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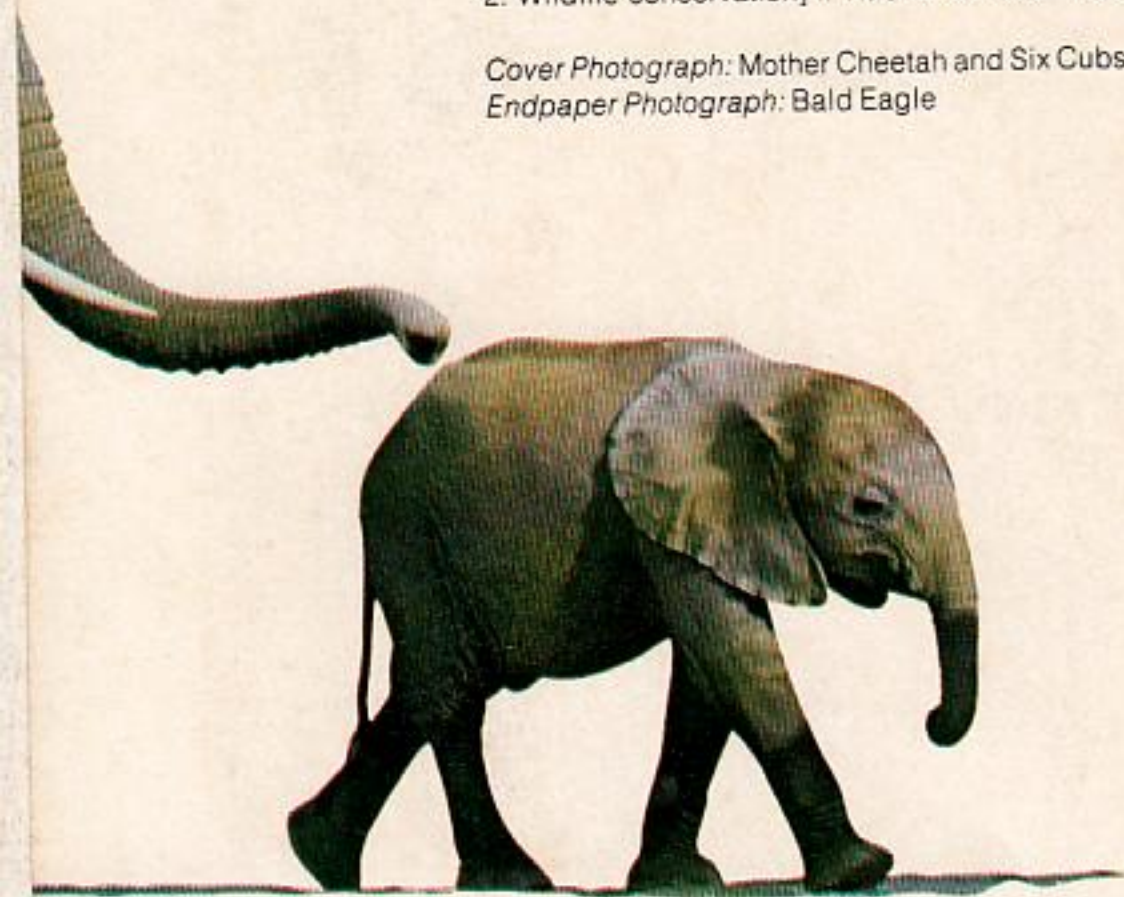
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SUMMARY: Brief text and pictures describe the habits and behavior of a variety of endangered animals. Cartoons explain some of the efforts being made to protect these animals.

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Cover Photograph: Mother Cheetah and Six Cubs
Endpaper Photograph: Bald Eagle



A pat from a mother's trunk
makes a baby elephant feel safe.

